

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended for grammar and syntax reasons. The language is now believed to be less “chunky”.

Both Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 103(a), each based on Ichibori et al. For the reasons hereinbefore recited, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections should be withdrawn.

Ichibori et al. discloses a union fabric comprising a compound yarn of the halogen-containing flame resistant fiber corresponding to (a-1) of the present invention and another fiber corresponding to (a-2) of the present invention. The textile fabric is obtained by co-weaving of the fiber corresponding to (a-1) of the present invention and the other fiber corresponding to (B) of the present invention. However, Ichibori et al. does not describe a fabric having the fibers (A) (a-1) and (a-2); and the fiber (B). In contrast to Ichibori et al., the claimed invention combines the compound yarn (A) and the other yarn (B), to achieve both of special features such as flame resistance of the compound yarn (A), and the touch of cellulosic fiber yarn (B), maximized as described at page 9, lines 20 to 23, of the specification. Thus, Ichibori et al. can not be anticipated.

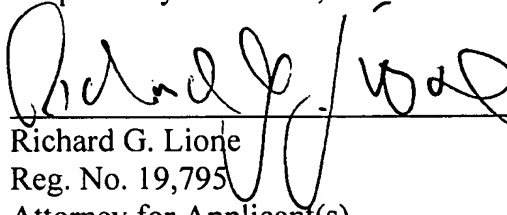
Regarding alleged obviousness, the claimed invention requires a fabric classified in class M1 of the NF P 92-503 combustion test, which is the flame resistance value of the textile fabric. In addition, the fabric has excellent touch and excellent hygroscopic properties. As a fiber co-weaved with the cellulosic fiber yarn (B) for giving excellent touch and excellent hygroscopic properties, a fiber which can impart flame resistance, further control of thermal behavior is used. Thereby, the obtained textile fabric can pass the Class

M1 of NF P 92-503 combustion test. In effect, by use of the compound yarn (A) of the halogen-containing flame resistant fiber (a-1) and the other fiber (a-2) for controlling a thermal behavior of the obtained compound yarn, formation of a hole in the textile fabric is prevented during a combustion test, resulting in the high flame resistance of class M1 in NF P 92-503 combustion test.

In Ichibori et al., the same compound yarn as the claimed invention initially appears to be described. However, Ichibori et al. points out that a fiber corresponding to the other fiber (a-2) of the present invention is simply natural fiber or chemical fiber, and it is not specifically limited. The Ichibori et al. fiber is used for imparting visual feeling, feeling of touchness, hygroscopic property, washing resistance, and durability to a textile fabric (column 4, lines 40 to 42), and flame resistance of the textile fabric depends on only halogen-containing flame resistant fiber. Further, thermal behavior of the obtained compound yarn is neither described nor suggested and there is no thought that thermal behavior of the obtained yarn is controlled by a fiber compounded with halogen-containing flame resistant fiber. In addition, evaluation of flame resistance is performed for a compound yarn, not for a textile fabric.

Therefore, applicants submit that the compound yarn of Ichibori et al., which is not controlled by thermal behavior, cannot be combined with the co-weaving fabric of the prior art that cellulosic fibers and halogen-containing flame resistant fibers are used as a weft yarn or a warp yarn, respectively, for providing a textile fabric capable of passing Class M1 of NF P 92-503 combustion test by use of a fiber which can impart flame resistance, and further control thermal behavior. As such, the claimed invention cannot be considered obvious in view of Ichibori et al.,

Respectfully submitted,


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